

RA BRIEF PFAS Activities in R4 Superfund Division

Date Updated: February 6, 2019. **Date Original Prepared:** August 9, 2018. **Priority Level:** 3

EPA Goal Supported: Provide for clean air, land, and water; ensure chemical safety

Issue: PFAS is an emerging contaminant of increasing national significance. It is currently not regulated/enforceable. The EPA established a drinking water lifetime health advisory (70 ppt) for two currently unregulated PFAS, specifically PFOA and PFOS.

Location: Region-wide

Context: EPA plans to release a PFAS Action Plan. Superfund has a role in addressing releases of PFAS to the environment through Federal Facility oversight. Superfund's role in sites with private PRPs has been much more limited due to considerations discussed below.

Critical Messages: The first step is to identify potential sources of PFOA/PFOS. The second step is to determine where PFOA/PFOS is present. Superfund is still in the first step phase for non-Department of Defense (DOD) site. In general, the U.S. Navy/Marines and Army are still in the early phases of their PFOA/PFOS investigations where several installations will be conducting preliminary assessments in the Spring/Summer of 2019. The U.S. Air Force has completed its preliminary assessments in determining the presence of PFOAs in the drinking water source.

Superfund Division Activities:

- As of February 2019, thirteen EPA Region 4 DOD Federal Facilities are involved with varied phases of investigations pertaining to the presence of PFOAs (refer to attached spreadsheet).
- Six of the 13 EPA Region 4 DOD Federal Facilities have not completed the preliminary assessments.
- The seven remaining DOD Federal Facilities have completed preliminary investigations.
 - o Three of seven sites have identified PFOA/PFOS in the groundwater but not in the drinking water supply (NAS Cecil, NAS Jacksonville, and Tyndall).
 - o Three sites have detected PFOA/PFOS in the drinking water source (MCAS Cherry Point, NAS Pensacola, and NAS Whiting).
 - o One site, Robins AFB, did not detect the presence of PFOA/PFOS in the drinking water source above the health advisory levels.
- In the attached spreadsheet, four Sites are highlighted for the following reasons:
 - o Robins AFB, located in the State of Georgia, was featured in the local news for two weeks in June 2018 due to public concern of the drinking water source being contaminated by PFOA/PFOS. Robins AFB issued a statement to ensure public health and a sampling schedule. Samples were collected from drinking water wells located

throughout the installation. No concentrations of PFOA/PFOS were detected at levels that are unacceptable to human health.

o MCAS Cherry Point, located in the State of North Carolina, is highlighted as PFOA/PFOS was detected in a drinking well located **outside the NPL site boundary**. Bottled water is being provided to one impacted resident. However, no PFOA/PFOS were detected within the Site boundary.

o NAS Whiting Field, located in the State of Florida, detected concentrations of PFOA/PFOS in drinking wells. However, additional sampling is scheduled to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2019 to determine the source of PFOA/PFOS.

o Camp Lejeune, located in the State of North Carolina, has an existing history of groundwater contamination. The Base PFAS investigation includes fifty-five sites. The preliminary assessment will be submitted to regulators this spring followed by a field site investigation by the end of the FY19. Camp Lejeune does not have PFAS in the base drinking water. There are no known exposures to PFAS-contaminated groundwater at the Base. However, three fire-fighting training pits were sampled recently with PFOA/PFOS concentrations detected as high as 35,000 micrograms/liter (ug/L).

- Additional Federal Facilities in the Region that are BRAC or are not NPL are currently conducting PFAS investigations.

Considerations/Superfund Division Challenges:

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